

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 14, 2004. Claims 25-31 are presented for examination, of which Claims 25 and 29 are in independent form. Claims 25-27, 29 and 30 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 25-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,598,533 (Yokota et al.).

Independent Claim 25 is directed to a method of controlling a data communication apparatus in a data processing system that includes the data communication apparatus and a host computer connected to the data communication apparatus by an interface, and according to Claim 25, the data communication apparatus is comprised of units including at least a scanner unit, a printer unit and a storage unit. In that method, commands are communicated from the host computer to the data communication apparatus through an interface, and, upon receipt of the commands, each of the statuses corresponding to each of the scanner unit, printer unit and storage unit of the data communication apparatus is checked. In addition, the host computer is notified of each of those statuses, discretely.

Thus, among other important features of the method of Claim 25, is that the data communication apparatus has at least a scanner unit, a printer unit and a storage unit, and the

status of each of those units is checked according to receipt of the command from the host computer, and the host computer is notified of the statuses of each of those units discretely. This procedure allows the host computer to recognize the status of each of the mentioned units of the data communication apparatus, unit by unit (it should be understood that this term does not imply a time sequence in the notifications, merely that the notification as to the statuses is discrete for each unit).

Applicant notes that Claim 25 reads on the disclosure relating to notification about the status of the scanner unit as a response to a scanner information request in Fig. 15, to notification about the status of the printer unit in response to printer information request in Fig. 16, and notification about the status of the storage unit, as a response to the request in Fig. 19. (Again, it is to be understood that the claim scope is not limited by the details of any preferred embodiment referred to.)

In contrast, Applicant submits that nothing in *Yokota* would provide any suggestion of notifying a host computer of the statuses of each of several units which form part of a data communication apparatus, unit by unit discretely, as recited in Claim 25. *Yokota* has status registers 31 and 33, but these registers show only whether a personal computer can send a command to a facsimile and, reversely, whether a facsimile can send a command to a personal

computer, and do not provide any notification about the statuses of each unit discretely. For at least this reason, Claim 25 is believed to be clearly allowable over *Yokota*.

Independent Claim 29 differs from Claim 25 in referring to a communication unit instead of to a storage unit, as in Claim 25. This portion of Claim 29 reads on the line unit of Fig. 2 of the specification and is based on steps S822, 823, 831, 833 and 841 in Fig. 8-1, relating to notification about the status of the communication unit.

Claim 29 is believed to be clearly allowable over *Yokota* for substantially the same reasons as are presented above with regard to Claim 25.

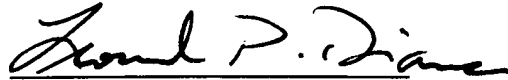
A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application depend from one or the other of the independent claims discussed above and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Leonard P. Diana".

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